

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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SUBJ: FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION BAKKE'S VISIT TO

FRANCE

1. DURING TWO-DAY STAY IN PARIS, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BAKKE AND MR. BAYER HAD INTERESTING TALKS WITH FRENCH MERCHANT MARINE OFFICIALS AND SHIPOWNERS. THIS GAVE MR. BAKKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON TARIFF STABILIZATION AND TO EXPLAIN THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT TO BRING THE SOVIETS INTO CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MARINE MARCHANDE CHAPON EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THESE OBJECTIVES AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE THIS PRECEDENT IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS.

2. THE ONLY CONCERN EXPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SHIPOWNERS WAS WILLINGNESS OF SOVIETS TO TRULY ABIDE BY THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE DANGER OF COLLUSION AMONG EASTERN BLOCK COUNTRIES IN ESTABLISHING THE LOW INDEPENDENT CARRIER RATES. MR. BAKKE INDICATED THAT IF SOVIETS GAVE EVIDENCE OF EVADING THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE AGREEMENT, THE US CONGRESS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RETURN TO A LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION. THIS SEEMED TO ALLAY THAT CONCERN.

3. PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FRENCH SHIPOWNERS PIERRE EDOUARD CANGARDEL ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR SUCCESS OF US INITIATIVE AND KEEN INTEREST IN RESULTS.
GAMMON

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